WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND THE REFERENDUM

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Representation of the People Bill. Evidence of Support for Clause IV.—Enfranchisement of Women	478
Women's Suffrage and the Referendum. By Mary Stocks	479
The Taint of Pauperism. By the Countess of Selborne	480
The Women Characters of the Waverley Novels	482
Labour and the National Food Supply	482
"New Year! Be Good to England." By Mrs. Fawcett	484
The Future of Maternity Centres. By Ada Wallas	485

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Notes and News.

The Referendum and the Spirit of the Constitution.

The Referendum is a new idea in English politics; so new that in an Encyclopædia published in 1891 the heading "Referendum" is simply followed by the words, "see Switzerland," and in the article Switzerland the referendum is spoken of as an institution peculiar to that country. In the same way the word "Plebiscite" is explained as part of the political phraseology of modern France. The best-known historical instance of the use of the plebiscite is, of course, French. It will be remembered that it was part of the machinery used by Louis Napoleon in 1851 and 1852 for the overthrow of Parliamentary government in France.

It is, however, in use in some parts of the British Empire. In Australia the question of conscription has just been submitted to it. Compulsory military service introduced in the midst of a great war in a country in which nothing of the kind had been contemplated in time of peace, is just one of those emergency measures about which it is conceivable that a Referendum might be useful, if it is ever useful. It was not, however, thought necessary to submit the British Military Service Act directly to the electorate. Rightly or wrongly, members of the House of Commons believed that they knew the will of those they represented in this matter, and that, in face of a national emergency, they owed to their constituents not a direct reference, but "their best judgement."

To apply the Referendum to any part of any Bill introduced into the Parliament of Great Britain would indeed be little short of a revolution. If it was to be applied to a Franchise Bill it should, of course, have been discussed at the Speaker's Conference. The fact that there is no mention of it in their report would seem to show that they regarded it as outside the field of their discussion, which was, in fact, concerned with the development, and not with the overthrow, of existing institutions.

The Referendum is indeed profoundly alien to the spirit of British institutions as they have developed in this country. Our Constitution rests on a complete and organic system of responsibility, no part of which can be injured without harming the rest. In Great Britain the member of Parliament is the representative and not the delegate of those who elect him. He is the link between them and the Executive; to give a precedent for any Government to ignore this link would be to strike a blow at the Mother of Parliaments and at the theory of Ministerial responsibility which is peculiarly her own.

Lord Sydenham and the United States.

Lord Sydenham's speech in the House of Lords on December 17th was not all very easy to hear, but if the Hansard transcription of it is correct, it might give rise to some extraordinary misinterpretations. The noble lord is reported as saying:—

"In America, excluding the State of New York, which, I believe, has recently decided in favour of women having the vote, fourteen States have refused the franchise to women, and two, Montana and Nevada, have granted it. The population of the fourteen States is 43,000,000, and that of the two States which have granted the suffrage is 500,000."

There is nothing in these words to show that Lord Sydenham was referring only to what had happened *since the war*, as, we presume, must have been the case, for if not, why did he forget Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, California, Wyoming, Idaho, and Arizona, all of which have granted full suffrage to women, not to mention Illinois, North Dakota, and Indiana, which have granted Presidential Suffrage? But if he *was* talking of events since the war, what are the *fourteen* States which he says have refused Suffrage to women? And was it not a little misleading when comparing populations to exclude New York, which has a population of considerably over nine millions?

Lord Sydenham and the Houses of Parliament.

But if Lord Sydenham's references to the United States are surprising, his statements about what has happened in this country cause even more amazement. He is reported by Hansard to have said that the present House of Commons has twice rejected Women's Suffrage, "on one occasion three months after the commencement of the war by a majority of 104 to 60 votes." We need hardly remind readers of THE COMMON CAUSE that this is a serious mistake. The House of Commons did no such thing. After some pondering, we have come to the conclusion that when Lord Sydenham said the House of Commons, he must have meant the House of Lords, and that when he said three months after the commencement of the war, he must have meant four months before it. The House of Lords did reject a Women's Suffrage measure introduced by Lord Selborne in April, 1914. But it seems strange that a member of the Upper House should forget what happened there and believe that it happened in "another place," and it is very strange that anybody should yet have been able to forget when it was that the war began! However, no doubt the report of Lord Sydenham's speech is incorrect, and we shall shortly hear that he has corrected it.

An "Elsie Inglis Unit" for the Serbian Army.

It is now very widely known that part of the Serbian Division of the Russian Army is in England, but it is not so generally known that Dr. Elsie Inglis and her Unit travelled back to England with some of these Serbian soldiers. The Unit is to be re-equipped and will then be sent out again under the title of the "Elsie Inglis Unit," to rejoin the same Serbian Division and go with it wherever it may be sent.

Representation of the People Bill.

EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT FOR CLAUSE IV: ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN.

WE, on behalf of the 561 Affiliated Societies of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and with the support of the other Societies forming the Constitutional Movement for the Enfranchisement of Women, desire to call your Lordships' attention to the overwhelming volume of the support for the political liberty of women.

SUPPORT FROM MEN:

Resolutions in favour of Women's Suffrage have been repeatedly passed by—

The National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations
The National Liberal Federation
The National Labour Party ... ... (representing 2,250.000 voters)
The Trades Union Congress ... ... (representing 3,082,352 voters)
131 Trades Councils ... ... (representing 703,394 voters)
The Amalgamated Society of Engineers ... ... (representing over 270,000 voters)
The Miners' Federation ... ... (representing 800,000 voters)
The National Union of Dock Labourers ... ... (representing 47,000 voters)
and 134 other Trade Unions and their Branches ... (representing over 879,372 voters)
The Town Councils of Dublin, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Glasgow, and 157 other City, Town, Borough, and Urban District Councils.

After the General Election of January, 1910, a petition of 280,000 Parliamentary voters was presented to Parliament. In July, 1910, the Second Reading of a Women's Suffrage Bill was carried by 109 votes. In May, 1911, the Second Reading of a Women's Suffrage Bill was carried by 167 votes; and in June, 1917, Women's Suffrage was carried in the House of Commons by 385 votes to 55.

SUPPORT FROM WOMEN:

Resolutions in favour of Women's Suffrage have been repeatedly passed by—

The National Union of Women Workers ... ... (representing over 2½ million women)
The Women's Liberal Federation ... ... (representing 106,997 women)
The National British Women's Temperance Association ... ... (representing over 145,044 women)
The Women's Co-operative Guild ... ... (representing 27,000 women)
The National Federation of Women Workers ... ... (about 50.000 women)
The Railway Women's Guild
The Association of Head and Assistant Mistresses
and ten other nationally organised societies of women

In 1908 a petition was sent up from 538 out of a total of 553 women doctors then qualified, and in May, 1917, 3,709 women, replacing men or doing munition work in Sheffield and Rotherham alone, petitioned Parliament.

It is evident, by the statements of such public men as Lord Milner, Lord Crewe, Mr. Walter Long, Mr. Asquith, Lord Northcliffe and Mr. Garvin, by the evidence of the great bulk of London and Provincial Press, as well as by the obvious trend of popular sentiment, that the support for Women's Suffrage has enormously increased since August, 1914. In view of this fact, and of the evidence that this reform has already received THE SUPPORT OF THE ORGANISED MEN AND WOMEN OF THIS COUNTRY, we venture to submit that the labour, expense and delay of any further reference to the country is wholly unnecessary. Of its result we should have no fear, and the recent REFERENDUM IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK, which resulted in a MAJORITY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE OF 94,000, confirms our opinion.

We beg your Lordships, therefore, to pass the clause as it stands, and, by admitting women to the political responsibilities that are their right, to make it possible for the men and women of this Empire to work out together the future of their race.

(Signed) MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, President.
HELENA AUERBACH, Honorary Treasurer.
VIOLET EUSTACE, Hon. Secretary.
RAY STRACHEY, Hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

Women's Suffrage and the Referendum.

In a few days' time Clause 4 of the Representation of the People Bill will be facing its last ordeal—Committee stage in the House of Lords. Suffragists know that it is as well equipped for that ordeal as any measure could be. It has the goodwill of the country behind it, the approbation of the Press, the benediction of the Government, and the record of that wonderful night in the House of Commons when the principle of Women's Suffrage was carried with general acclamation by a majority of seven to one in a full house. We have reason to believe, however, that the ditch in which seventeen stubborn M.P.s died on the night of June 20th, 1917, is not the last ditch in the anti-Suffrage scheme of defence, that a final effort will be made by opponents in the Upper House to delay, if not to prevent altogether, the passage of Clause 4, and that, as a mild concession to public opinion, this effort will take the form not of direct opposition to Women's Suffrage, but of an attempt to amend Clause 4 by providing for the submission of its principle to a referendum.

Now, with the general principle of the referendum, Women's Suffragists, as such, have no quarrel. It is a constitutional question outside the province of their organisation. Obviously, the introduction into the British Constitution of the requirement that a particular type of legislation shall be subject, either automatically or at the request of a given number of electors, to a referendum, is a conceivable and reasonable proposition. Obviously, too, it raises a number of very profound considerations. To what extent would a referendum increase the power of the Press? How would it affect our existing dual party system by which the elector is asked to choose not so much this or that particular measure as this or that broad principle of government? Is it possible to stop short at a veto referendum, or must machinery be provided for the application of an initiative referendum? Might not the former be regarded as a possible substitute for the safeguards at present provided by the existence of a second chamber? Such are a few of the considerations which leap to mind when we contemplate so vast a change as the adulteration of representative government by direct popular appeal. They are, it may be repeated, considerations with which Suffragists, as such, have no concern.

But with the particular referendum proposal which looms ahead of Clause 4, Suffragists have a very intimate concern; for here we have not a straightforward attempt by supporters of the referendum to make the system a part of our regular constitutional machinery, but a sidelong attempt to apply it on an isolated occasion to a piece of legislation specially singled out for its application. The proposal is analogous to the enactment of a law for the benefit or penalisation of a single individual—a principle which has been generally acknowledged as essentially bad since its condemnation by Roman Law. Nor do its supporters appear to offer any adequate reason why the proposal to enfranchise a certain number of women should be subjected to this novel and unconstitutional procedure. The statement that Women's Suffrage has never "been before the country" is so palpably false as to be incredible even by those who make use of it. Women's Suffrage has been one of the most widely discussed political topics of the last decade; the majority of existing members of Parliament have replied to questions on the subject at the time of their election; the matter has been debated on no less than twenty-four occasions in the House of Commons, and eight Women's Suffrage Bills have passed the stage of second reading; finally, after fifty years of political agitation, the country has delivered a verdict through its Press, through its organised labour, and through its elected representatives in the House of Commons.

The assumption that Women's Suffrage in itself constitutes an exceptional measure, and is therefore a fit subject for exceptional treatment appears upon examination to be equally unsound. British Parliamentary history contains no record of the fact that the enfranchisement of any particular class of the community has ever required further sanction than the normal constitutional machinery for passing laws. Indeed, if extra-constitutional machinery be regarded as necessary for one clause of the Representation of the People Bill on the ground that it enfranchises a different sex, what in the way of extra-constitutional machinery should be devised for another clause which proposes to disfranchise persons by virtue of opinions which the existing law expressly offers them the opportunity of upholding?

In actual fact, however, the foregoing arguments serve little practical purpose as far as the present referendum proposal is concerned. We are tempted to believe not merely that none of its supporters champion the referendum for its own sake, but that very few, if any, of them seriously desire to see its actual application in the case of Women's Suffrage. On a straightforward referendum in the spring of 1914, Women's Suffrage would have hung in the balance, and "militancy" would have served as its heaviest counterweight. But now in January, 1918, with the death of "militancy" and the birth of a new spirit of national co-operation and understanding between men and women, the issue would be certain. Suffragists would regret the delay, and they would most bitterly regret the woeful waste of energy which a big political appeal to the country would impose upon numbers of women's organisations; but they would have no doubt whatever concerning the country's reply to that appeal. Clause 4 would win.

What the opponents of Women's Suffrage are aiming at is not, presumably, a special appeal to the country, but delay—at a time when the general instability of all things political makes delay a danger. If the Upper House were prepared to accept a referendum, the Lower House would most certainly reject it; and the smooth passage of the whole Bill would be impeded. We should be faced immediately by a struggle between those who regard Women's Suffrage as an essential, and those who regard it as a non-essential part of the whole measure; and recent expressions of Parliamentary opinion lead us to believe that the former would triumph even were they not reinforced by that section of opinion which would welcome a quarrel between the two Houses. And in the meantime, the pressing need for a new Parliamentary register would remain unsatisfied, more fuel would be provided for the discontent of labour, large volumes of women's work would be diverted to political agitation. Political prophecy is a dangerous thing in time of war, but it is an easy matter to foretell far-reaching confusion from an accident to Clause 4, endangering, as a consequence, the whole complicated structure of Parliamentary reform. For it is unthinkable that a responsible House of Commons could at the present juncture accept so revolutionary a constitutional change. In such an application of the referendum we should have "the thin end of the wedge" with a vengeance; and though somebody has said very truly that the British Constitution is stuck full of wedges—such wedges, no doubt, as one inserts into the crevices of an old window-frame to prevent it rattling—yet in the principle of direct popular appeal as an addition to representative government we have a wedge capable of splitting the British Constitution from top to bottom. Unfortunately, the gravity of the situation will probably obscure the humour of it, and prevent the House of Commons from allowing the House of Lords to strike the first blow.

But apart from the gravity of the situation, the matter raises several amusing thoughts, among them the speculation as to what would happen if the Commons accepted this referendum, and having accepted it made a habit of it—and applied it to the question of an Hereditary Chamber.

MARY STOCKS.

The Taint of Pauperism.

BY THE COUNTESS OF SELBORNE.

For a practical people we certainly are guilty of a great piece of folly. We keep up an extensive and elaborate system of public assistance, and we then lay down the principle that it is an insult to offer to assist anyone through this system, because it carries with it the "taint of pauperism." So about ten millions a year of the ratepayers' money is spent, and the benefits provided are embittered to the recipients, so that they are regarded almost as injuries. Under these circumstances it is worth enquiring what is this "taint"? How is it produced? Is there no way of getting rid of it?

To begin with, there is that word pauper. Why should the statement that a fellow-citizen is poor, even if it be made in Latin, be so insulting? It was not intended. In the days when the Poor Law first had its being, the halo that mediæval Christianity had attributed to poverty still lingered. Queen Elizabeth designed to provide hostels and maintenance for poor impotent folk, and work for the unemployed. Her severity was reserved for those who preferred to beg or steal. No shame should be felt by those whom the community assists if they have a right to that assistance; that is to say, if they are "impotent"—unable to earn their own living or to pay for the necessary care in sickness. There clearly ought to be no more stigma attached to seeking relief in a Poor Law infirmary than there is in seeking relief in a hospital.

I am inclined to think that the great bulk of the feeling of hostility to the Poor Law dates from 1834. There was a certain amount aroused before that by the appointment of paid overseers, whose business was to regulate the parish paid labour; but the rate in aid of wages, disastrous as we know its effects to have been, did not call forth any popular indignation at the time. On the contrary, the sudden cessation of this rate-aid was looked upon as robbing the poor by many of the labourers, and the erection of the forbidding-looking workhouses, which were kept uncomfortable in order that they might deter people from too heedlessly throwing themselves upon the rates, achieved the detestation with which the new methods were regarded by the silent masses. In the interval of time which has elapsed since 1834, great changes have taken place in Poor Law institutions. Many of the Poor Law infirmaries are now on a level with good hospitals in regard to the nursing and care of the sick. Poor Law schools are better than many charitable institutions. Poor Law medical relief has been largely extended. The only form in which we have mothers' pensions in this country is the outdoor relief usually granted to widows with children.

As I see it, the Poor Law is a green living branch of the local self-government of our people. It is, and has been, affected by the current of thought which happens to be that of the nation at different times in its history. Like most of our institutions, it is illogical, incomplete, and antiquated in its forms; but it has a real vitality and adaptability, and I see no reason why we should not fit it to our own uses, as our fathers before us fitted it to theirs.

I remember reading that when Louise Michel, the French Communist, was shown over an English workhouse, and it was explained to her that here was an institution in which anyone who was in distress could be received, she exclaimed with enthusiasm that that was what she had always wished to see in France; and if it was proposed to set up as a new institution a popularly elected body, with a practically unlimited power of taxation, who should have the power to relieve distress, care for the sick, feed the hungry, maintain the children, it would certainly be looked upon as a very dangerous experiment by most of my Conservative friends. But as it is an institution which has grown as we have grown, which has developed from its foundation by Queen Elizabeth, and has worked in many ways in the intervening ages, it frightens nobody.

So I hope that it may be used. Altered when it is necessary, but used. If it is not to be used for all public service work, on account of that ridiculous theory that it is hopelessly tainted, it had better be abolished. But reformers are setting themselves a very unnecessary task if they start to destroy the Poor Law before they have any machinery to replace it, and they will assist those whose great wish is that nothing may be done. These people will always say: "Grant mothers pensions? Of course. But we must think very carefully who shall dispense them." "Give public service infirmaries, State midwives, children's clinics? Yes; but, of course, they must have nothing to do with the Poor Law. We must wait for a comprehensive Act which shall reconstitute the whole of our relief laws. Let us set up a Minister of Health. That would be a grand thing to do, and then, of course, we could co-ordinate. Why not co-ordinate? Surely *that* would settle everything."

And so nothing is done. Quite a small amount of pressure applied to point after point of the Poor Law where it is ineffective or inadequate, would be sufficient to bring about a change, but it will require a mighty effort to uproot it. Because, if reformers would only believe it, the English are a very conservative people, whatever label they may choose to wear.

It is now eight or nine years since the last Commission on Poor Law Reform presented their two valuable Reports. Very helpful counsel was given in both of them as to the lines along which reforms ought to proceed. But they both advised the abolition of the local, directly elected body, the Majority Report by transferring its powers to an appointed Committee of the County Council, the Minority Report by completely disintegrating it and dividing up its functions among other authorities. That is perhaps the reason why more result has not followed on these reports. Liberal Governments have been in power; the forces which make for change have been in the ascendant, but our Poor Law remains very much as it was in 1909.

Some New Occupations for Women.

XI.—WOMEN RELIEVING OFFICERS.

Women are now employed by Boards of Guardians as Relieving Officers, Assistant Relieving Officers, and Relief Visitors. As Relieving Officers proper, they are required to carry out the same statutory duties that are carried out by men Relieving Officers—that is to say, they are in charge of a district, and are responsible for the administration of relief, have to deal with lunatics under certain sections of the Lunacy Act, and keep the elaborate books and accounts of Relieving Officers as prescribed by the Local Government Board.

ADMINISTRATION OF RELIEF.

The term "relief" is an extremely wide one. Relief may take the form of a grant of money, a dole of food, admission to an institution, such as the workhouse, or an order to see a doctor and receive free medicines or surgical instruments, or even bedding or clothing.

In administering relief, the Relieving Officer has to be careful to see that the relief she gives is within the limit of the Orders that are issued from time to time by the Local Government Board, otherwise she might find herself surcharged by the auditors. In broad outline, the proceeding is as follows. The Relieving Officer interviews applicants for relief at her office; she has to enter each application in a book called the Application and Report Book, which is submitted at regular intervals to the Board of Guardians, who then "approve" of what has been done. Each application has to be taken down in detail; and nearly all Boards of Guardians require a case paper to be filled in which shows the entire position of the applicant in detail. The Relieving Officer is bound to visit all applicants in their own home, for the purpose of verifying the address, noting the condition of the home generally, seeing the children, and so on. It seems hardly necessary to labour the point that women are obviously better suited to be home visitors than men.

It will be seen that this important branch of the work requires a good working knowledge of the Poor Laws regulating administration of relief, accuracy in taking down particulars, powers of discernment and of "handling" different types of persons, together with sympathy and understanding of human nature. The work is intensely interesting and engrossing. I think Relieving Officers should always bear in mind the two broad principles, that they owe a duty to the poor in their districts to see that the relief given is applicable to their needs, and to the ratepayers to see that the relief is not abused.

LUNATICS.

A Relieving Officer may be called upon at any hour of the day or night, at the instance of a doctor or the police, to remove to a place of safety a person who is deemed to be a lunatic, and not under proper care and control. This branch of the work certainly requires prompt action and resourcefulness. The Officer is bound to visit at once, and if she considers the case urgent, can remove the person forthwith to a place of safety, which in London is generally the Workhouse, where there are observation wards. More often she calls in the District Medical Officer to visit, and has the support of his opinion. The responsibility is, however, really the Officer's, and she would be called to account if the alleged lunatic did harm to himself or herself, or to the public.

Having safely escorted the alleged insane person to the workhouse, she gives an order for him or her to be detained for three days, and calls upon a Justice of the Peace to interview the patient. The patient may be discharged at the end of three days, or the magistrate may put him under a fourteen days' detention order, to give further time for observation. At the end of that time patients are either "discharged" from under the Lunacy Act, or sent to an Asylum, according to the finding of the medical superintendent and Magistrates. The Relieving Officer has to escort the patient to an Asylum, and, as may be supposed, there are many technicalities to be observed, as regards filling up forms and the like, which often prove traps for the unwary.

This branch of the work is often said to be too dangerous for women to carry out; but while not denying that the work does require strong nerve, and sometimes physical strength, I think there are few cases that a resolute person cannot tackle. The police will always give assistance if called upon, and other assistance may be engaged for which the Relieving Officer can pay and charge in her account. A readiness to fall in with the patient's delusion, and a quick wit, will often make physical force unneedful.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS.

There are various books Relieving Officers are required by law to keep, which are examined each week by the Clerk to the Guardians, and half-yearly by auditors sent by the Local Government Board. These books show the exact number of persons relieved, their sex, whether able-bodied, sick, or children, a statement of all monies received and disbursed, and what relief has been given in kind. These statements have to be made on prescribed forms, which might with advantage be simplified.

A Relieving Officer has, too, to know something of the Laws of Settlement and Removal, which determine to which parish a person may be deemed to belong—these laws are extremely complicated and intricate, and in many Unions there is a Settlement Officer to deal specially with them. In the opinion of many, it is high time that these laws were modified; they give rise to an immense amount of costly litigation, with very little benefit to the subject of the litigation.

This is the briefest possible survey of the work of Relieving Officers. It will be seen that an "all round person" is wanted for the work, and it is desirable that she should know something of other social legislation, such as the Children's Act, the Public Health Acts, the Factory and Workshops Act, the National Health Insurance Act, and at the present time keep herself acquainted with the regulations regarding sailors' and soldiers' dependents.

As far as I am aware, there is no standardised training, but all experience in social work is to the good, and any special training, such as is taken by Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors, would be useful. What is greatly wanted is experience of life, and—I would add—a belief in human nature and its high destiny.

Salaries vary from £80 to £120 for Assistant Relieving Officers and Relief Visitors. As Relieving Officers proper, women's salaries should be on the same scale as that paid to men officers, and as such would rise to £190. Salaries vary according to town or country work. The appointment sometimes carries others with it—*e.g.*, the work of the Infant-Life Protection Officer is often in the hands of the Relieving Officer in the country.

WOMEN RELIEF VISITORS.

Women are also employed by Boards of Guardians as Relief Visitors, and to my mind their work should then be more or less complementary to that of the Relieving Officers.

Boards of Guardians who employ women in this work have varying views as to how they should be employed, and it depends somewhat on the character of the Board and the requirements of the neighbourhood, as to which branch of the work the woman officer devotes her strength.

Broadly speaking, the duties fall under four main heads:—

1. Visiting cases of women and children on outdoor relief.
2. Visiting widows whose children are being maintained in the district schools.
3. Maternity cases.
4. Supervision of cases relating to children.

VISITING WIDOWS AND CHILDREN ON OUTDOOR RELIEF.

Most Boards attach much importance to this branch of the work. These cases are reviewed by the Guardians every six or twelve weeks, as the case may be, and the woman officer visits and presents a report on the financial position and general well-being of the family. Here the object is to become the friend of the family, and at the same time to keep an open eye for anything amiss.

VISITING CASES OF WIDOWS WHOSE CHILDREN ARE IN POOR LAW SCHOOLS, &C.

Guardians have power to relieve widows by taking some of their children into residential schools or homes. This is not the place to weigh the pros and cons of this method of relief; but where Guardians do so relieve, it is important to keep in touch with the mothers and form a link between mother and child. By this means it is possible to keep alive a sense of parental responsibility which is sometimes apt to slumber until children reach a wage-earning age. These cases are revised by a Committee of the Guardians not less frequently than once a quarter. A further object in visiting is to keep up a standard of respectability, ascertain that the woman's circumstances have not sufficiently improved to enable her to support her child herself, and satisfy oneself that there is not a new husband!

MATERNITY CASES.

A more difficult and depressing part of the work is that connected with the unmarried women who enter the workhouse for confinement. As a rule, these cases are admitted by the Relieving Officer or the Master of the Workhouse. In the Parish in which I work, the case is then passed on to me to complete. This involves going into the workhouse to interview the girl, trying to gain her confidence, ascertain her settlement, determine whether it is one where proceedings might be taken against the man, or whether it is one for a Home, restoration to friends, and the like. It will be easily understood that in connection with this branch of the work many problems arise on which to exercise thought and energy.

CHILDREN.

It must be remembered that in addition to the children previously mentioned, Guardians have a considerable number of orphan and deserted children maintained in institutions. The Relief Visitor often has a good deal of detailed work in connection with these young people, making enquiries as to their character and dispositions, advising as to which Home they are best suited for, buying outfits, and the like. When the wage-earning age is reached, she may have to enquire as to the suitability of situations and occupations, and so avoid the square peg being put into the round hole.

Some Boards of Guardians require their Relief Visitors to do a good deal of after-care work, but in London the admirable Society known as the M.A.B.Y.S. take over a great deal of this responsibility where girls are concerned, and the Association for Befriending Boys help to keep in touch with the lads.

The list of duties presented to the Relief Visitors generally ends up with the comprehensive remark: "The candidate appointed must act generally under the direction of the Clerk to the Guardians, and carry out such duties as are required by him or the Guardians." This means that one must be prepared to do any odd jobs that come along! It is wonderful what stray cases crop up, and they vary in my experience from seeing a family off to Canada at 5 a.m., to sorting a lunatic's belongings, restoring children to friends, arranging convalescence for inmates of the Infirmary, and many other odd jobs.

This is a rough sketch of what is being done by Relief Visitors, and I think it will be seen that the work gives scope for all sorts of capabilities, and brings one in touch with our most pressing social problems.

The number of Relief Visitors is steadily growing, and most Boards have agreed that they have justified their existence.

I think there is no doubt that by degrees the work of Relieving Officers and Relief Visitors will pass more into the hands of women, and I commend it to all who "love their fellow-men."

BY A WOMAN RELIEVING OFFICER.

The Women Characters of the Waverley Novels.

Two charges have been brought against Sir Walter Scott—that he was unfair to the Scottish Highlanders, and that his women are a poor sort of creatures—"elegant females" at best, in the words of Miss Austen's immortal fool, Mr. Collins. There is a shade of truth in both charges. The "Great Minstrel of the Border," the revealer of Scotland to the world, of its glorious scenery, its heroic history, and the original and powerful character of its people. might very easily have selected a far nobler representative of the Highland Chiefs of 1745 than his imaginary Fergus MacIvor. But it is only fair to Scott to remember that the great rebellion of that year, which so nearly succeeded in replacing the Stewarts on the throne of Great Britain, and driving the "wee, wee German Lairdie" of Jacobite song back over the sea to Hanover, was, when "Waverley" was written, only "Sixty Years Since," and Jacobite sympathy was still a live thing. Scott, convinced in his sober judgment that the country had wisely decided against the Stewarts, however heavily sentiment weighed in the opposite scale, obviously felt compelled to be wary lest sentiment should outweigh conviction, and possibly even arouse passions that were only sleeping, not dead.

It is easier to defend him against the second charge. In the long list of the Waverley Novels, and in his poems, many women characters stand out of exceptional beauty and interest, two or three even of power and grandeur. True, there are some distressing exceptions. We are all more or less the children of the age in which we live, and Scott was perhaps specially unfortunate in his times, so far as ideals of womanhood were concerned. His were the days of Mrs. Chapone and Dr. Gregory, and he simply accepted, manlike, the general opinion of his time—accepted, too, even by women themselves, as to their characteristics and the conduct consequently to be expected from them. Now and then, however, he protested. Take the scene in which Lucy Ashton, bound "according to the ideas of the time" to appear ignorant of the meaning of the conversation which had just passed between her father and blind Alice, pretends that she is afraid of the wild cattle, though she was not really afraid at all, for, says Scott, "It was not then, as it may be now, a necessary part of a young lady's demeanour to indulge in causeless tremors of the nerves."

Is not this "a palpable hit" at the manners of his own day? But, as a rule, he to some extent accepts the general view, especially when his tales deal with modern life. Julia Mannering and Lucy Bertram are frankly intolerable—the one is pert, the other a nincompoop. Both go to bed, like good children, at a word from Colonel Mannering, just at the moment when events have reached a crisis of supreme interest. Diana Vernon, Scott's finest woman character save one, is curtly dismissed by Rob Roy as a "daft hempie," though he grants that she is a "mettle quean." But that is not Sir Walter's own judgment. Diana seems to grow under his hand in dignity, as if the character he had imagined fascinated himself. It is not merely Diana's horsemanship and courage which win our admiration; it is her moral and intellectual distinction, her simple—Scott would have said her masculine—honesty and sincerity.

All his heroines, with the single exception of Alice Lee, who, endowed as she is with the "lion-spirit of the Lees," is a timid horsewoman, are, as was Scott himself, at home on horseback. Of Clara Mowbray the groom says, "Miss Clara can spank it over wet and dry." Not so Miss Austen's prim little Fanny in "Mansfield Park," who learns to ride on an old pony. Can Catherine Seyton be said to lack spirit, or Mysie Happer courage and ready wit, or can it be said that Amy Robsart, spoiled child as she was, is a coward or a sneak? She sacrifices herself to screen Leicester from disgrace, and confronts Varney—Scott's worst villain—with a scorn for which she pays with life. "She hath," said Leicester, "where she holds her honour, brought into question, a temper as apprehensive as lightning and as swift in execution."

Besides the fact that Scott's novels are essentially tales of action and adventure, and that his women, therefore, as a rule, naturally play a less striking part, there is also another reason why they appear often under restraint, and this is his peculiar tenderness for the mutual love of father and daughter. He repeats this relation over and over again in his tales, and obviously the daughter, bound by filial duty and devoted affection, subordinates herself. Diana never dreams of disputing the decree that she must either wed one of Sir Hildebrand's sons or become a nun. Lucy Ashton, gentle as she is by nature, is the most rebellious daughter of all, for she clings to her absent and apparently faithless lover with sorely tried but unfaltering loyalty. "Lucy's spirit," says Scott, "was high." Such women as these and many others are surely no weaklings. Jeannie Deans is the chief of peasant heroines; the Countess Brenhilda is the Lady Knight (a real historic figure in the early days of Chivalry), as well as a loved and loving wife; while Norna of the Fitful Head, spite of Goldsmith's *dictum* that "when lovely woman stoops to folly" she has no resource except to die, contrives very successfully to survive an unfortunate love affair.

To conclude this necessarily most inadequate defence where no defence is really required, let me say that where Sir Walter "followed the Gleam" of his own genius, and shook off the enfeebling influences of his time, he created for us a gallery of women portraits, full of charm and varied as life. The greatest of all is the Jewess, Rebecca, a pure and noble woman, kind, learned, skilled in surgery, heroic in her unshaken resolution rather to die a death of agony than to endure dishonour.

Reckon up Scott's faults as a writer as you will! He would have acknowledged them all himself, for he was wont to belittle his own achievements, and in his overflowing generosity even to overpraise those of others. We find in him not perfection indeed. We find failings, human weaknesses, but we find no meanness, never one sneer, no tampering with evil, only a great faith in goodness, large-hearted tolerance, a simple, childlike reverence, all irradiated by supreme genius. To be in his company uplifts our souls. There is no one like him after all—so great, so humble, so entirely lovable. Of such as he is the Kingdom of Heaven.

L. I. LUMSDEN.

LABOUR AND THE NATIONAL FOOD SUPPLY.

The Labour Convention on the National Food Supply held in Westminster last Saturday (December 29th), passed two resolutions with practical unanimity. The first, moved by Mr. Robert Smillie and seconded by Dr. Marion Phillips, protested against Government delays in organising food distribution and the consequent suffering to urban consumers, especially women; demanded an equal sharing of the necessities of life between families of all classes; demanded compulsory rationing of all necessaries on a basis of registered orders; and pressed for an organised supply of milk to nursing mothers, babies, and school children.

The second, moved by Mr. McGurk, seconded by Mr. W. C. Anderson, again urged equitable and efficient food distribution but added a demand that the local Food Control Committee should be purged of shopkeepers, and a grave warning to the Government of what the workmen, who will "make any sacrifice that the country's real needs demand," expect of them in efficiency and fairness.

Mr. Clynes made a vigorous and even eloquent defence of the work of the Ministry of Food. He maintained that the policy pursued by the Ministry was in effect the policy of Labour. At the demand of Labour the prices of all essential articles of food had been fixed. It was true that the prices were high, but they were much lower than they would have been if the Government had not interfered. There was a danger in fixing prices too low, in the face of the world scarcity, it might result in scaring food away from the country; the producers of food must be considered, they, like the artisans, will hold out for what they regard as reasonable terms.

It was a mistake to say that the local Food Control Committees were overshadowed by the influence of shopkeepers; in the whole two thousand Food Committees there were altogether only 2,572 private traders, whereas there were 2,712 representatives of Labour. Lord Rhondda, himself, had recently said to the heads of the Government "I do not care a hang who suffers, or whose interest goes under, if only I can make this job of food control a success for the consumer." Mr. Clynes did not claim that the Ministry had always succeeded in their horribly difficult task, they were only human and had to learn as they went along, but he did claim that they were eager to learn, and speaking as a Labour man to comrades he urged Labour to come forward and bear more of the responsibility of the task. His obviously sincere and, in fact, moving speech was received with enthusiasm by the great audience.

This did not prevent Mr. W. C. Anderson, Mr. Hyndman, and Mr. Lansbury from saying some bitter things about the Ministry afterwards with equally obvious sincerity and an equally warm response from the meeting. Mr. Anderson said that it was nonsense to talk about supplying milk to necessitous children, because so far as milk was concerned, all children were necessitous. He thought that many of the so-called Labour representatives on Food Control Committees had no understanding whatever of the labour point of view, he thought all the tradesmen should be removed from the Food Committees and their place taken by practical working women.

Mr. Lansbury made an impassioned plea for the very poor and especially for the widows of our fighting men.

Throughout the Conference there was much talk about women, but very few were present; perhaps because they are too busy standing in food queues. The only woman delegate who spoke was eagerly welcomed by the assembly which had just before that been crying "Vote! Vote!" They shouted "Let's hear a woman." When she did speak, however, it was only to rebuke them for their impatience and to say that as delegates had come there to do their duty, they ought to do it thoroughly and not be in a hurry to go home. They listened submissively to the "women's point of view" on this matter. But though she was undoubtedly right, one could hardly blame them for their eagerness to vote and to get to their homes. All of them had urgent jobs waiting for them and some of them perhaps had wives waiting to be relieved in the food queues!

NEW PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY.

The decrease in pauperism which set in after the war began has continued throughout the past year, and has taken place not only among the classes ordinarily in receipt of relief, but also among the special classes receiving relief on account of ill-health, either physical or mental. At the end of September ordinary paupers were 483,436, as compared with 641,028 in the same month of 1914; the number of casuals was 1,845, as compared with 5,557; cases of medical relief had dropped from 17,521 in 1914 to 13,551; and lunatics from 100,941 to 97,356.

It must be remembered, however, that many thousands of people have been relieved of late years by public funds established by Parliament who would otherwise have come under the care of the Poor Law, so that these figures cannot be taken as representing the actual condition of the poorer classes. The public expenditure on hospitals and sanatoria has grown enormously, while large sums are being spent on the medical inspection and treatment of school children, and on school meals, anl also on relief under the Unemployed Workmen Act. Then there are old-age pensions, and also assistance under the National Insurance Act.

A large part of the community is thus receiving a considerable contribution towards its maintenance from local and State sources entirely separate from the Poor Law. Relief is, indeed, steadily being transferred from the Poor Law to other public funds, and the policy is being developed of giving assistance to classes which are not wholly destitute, but which would be likely to increase the pauper population if help were not provided in temporary difficulties.

It is likely that further progress in the direction of breaking-up the Poor Law will be made before long, as the Government Reconstruction Sub-Committee, appointed in July last "to consider and report upon the steps to be taken to secure the better co-ordination of public assistance in England and Wales," and other matters affecting the system of local government, have, we understand, adopted the main proposals of the scheme contained in the Majority Report of the Royal Commission.

This scheme is meeting with considerable opposition from Guardians and from the Poor Law Service throughout the country, who contend that the defects of Poor Law administration could be best remedied by a revision and extension of the powers entrusted to Boards of Guardians, and by the adoption of such means as would tend to strengthen the membership of such bodies.

THE CLAIMS OF MOTHERHOOD.

There is at the present time an urgent need for the provision of trained midwives, especially in districts where there is a shortage of medical practitioners for civilian needs. By the Midwives Act of 1902, it was made illegal for any woman to practice midwifery whose name was not registered on the Midwives' Roll prepared by the Central Midwives Board. Two classes of women are among the registered midwives:—

(1) Those who have passed a qualifying examination, usually spoken of as "trained midwives."

(2) Those who, not having passed any examination, were in *bona-fide* practice before the passing of the Act. Of this latter class a certain number have received some degree of training, but among them are some who can neither read nor write.

As only trained midwives have been added to the Roll since the passing of the Act, the number of untrained midwives has been gradually decreasing, and there are not sufficient women coming forward to take their place. Meanwhile, the number of births attended by midwives has been increasing.

The chief reason for the growing shortage is that under existing conditions a midwife cannot earn an adequate livelihood unless she undertakes so large a number of cases as to render it almost impossible for her to devote adequate attention to each case.

We understand that grants are to be made by the Local Government Board for the provision of a midwife for necessitous women in confinements in areas insufficiently supplied with a midwifery service, and that the Board of Education is now considering a scheme of grants from the State for the training of midwives. But there is still need for private effort. The Association for Promoting the Training and Supply of Midwives is therefore raising a fund to facilitate the training of midwives in approved hospitals and other institutions, and to keep up the training home at East Ham started by the Association in 1903.

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Further donations should be sent to The Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

SUFFRAGE FOR HUNGARIAN WOMEN.

The Hungarian Reform Bill as introduced provides for the enfranchisement of all male and female Hungarians of over twenty-four years of age. In the case of women, the stipulation is made that they must have passed the four classes of the secondary school, or can prove they have had an equivalent education. This introduction of an educational test for the women, not required from the men, is an interesting way of limiting the female franchise, which, we believe, has been thought of elsewhere.

THE INSURANCE OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The Women's Co-operative Guild are trying to get an amendment to Clause 22 of the Insurance Bill, which deals with the marriage benefit of £2, with a view to securing that the money shall be used for maternity purposes, instead of being paid to the woman on marriage. The amendment is in the hands of Lord Knutsford and Lord Sydenham, and it is expected that it will come up when the House of Lords re-assembles on Thursday. The Women's Co-operative Guild hope that it may meet with wide support.

OBITUARY.

We learn with regret of the death of Madame Judith Gautier, the first woman member of the Académie des Goncourt. Madame Gautier was the author of a number of books, mainly about Eastern lands, some of the best known being "En Chine," "Fleurs d'Orient," "L'Inde Eblouie," "La Sœur du Soleil," "Le Japon," and "Le Roman d'un Grand Chanteur."

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2. To create a stronger civic feeling among women, and to increase their sense of responsibility with regard to the exercise of the Municipal vote.
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"New Year! Be Good to England."

BY MRS. HENRY FAWCETT.

These words of W. E. Henley's New Year's poem of a few years back are in all our hearts to-day: men and women in every part of Britain, within the seas and over the seas, are echoing them. They are an all-present aspiration, hope, and prayer. And nowhere is this prayer more ardent and fervent than in the hearts of Suffragists. From the first day of the declaration of war we cheerfully agreed to set on one side our own immediate projects in order to concentrate on such things as were calculated to sustain the vital energies of the nation during her hour of peril. The good of the whole nation, here and overseas, is, and always has been, our first concern; and it is because we believe we can serve our country better and more completely as free citizens that we are knocking again at the doors of Parliament, as we have been knocking for the last fifty years, and are asking for the daughters of England that same political freedom which from "dark antiquity hath flowed with pomp of waters unwithstood" for her sons. It is because we are the daughters of our fathers, with the blood of freedom running in our veins, that we ask to share that freedom. "Bless me, even me also, O my father." We cannot believe that we are to be eternally disinherited.

Nearly a year ago, a well-known member of Parliament told us he believed that opposition to Women's Suffrage was almost extinct in the House of Commons. Events proved him to have been right. Running over the figures of the various divisions in the House of Commons, we find between March 28th and June 20th, 1917, all attempts to perpetuate in the Representation of the People Bill the ancient disqualification of sex were defeated by majorities varying from more than eight to one to about twelve and a-half to one. The second reading was carried in May by 329 to 40; in Committee, when the women's clauses were voted upon, the numbers were 385 to 55; and the final division on the whole clause as amended was 214 to 17. We are now facing the immediate prospect of the voting in the House of Lords in Committee on the Bill. There are no doubt fine old die-hards in the Lords who will vote against us to the last ditch; but we know that there are many peers, formerly opposed to us, who are now our friends; we believe that both the Archbishops and the great majority of the Bishops are with us; and in a question like the basis of the franchise which so intimately concerns the House of Commons and only remotely concerns the House of Lords, that the majority of the peers are too sagacious to set aside as negligible the immense majorities by which the People's House again and again, only a few months ago, affirmed and reaffirmed the principle of Women's Suffrage. This is not a time when good citizens would provoke a conflict between the two Houses.

We are living at a time when citizenship, and all that it means, are very present in our thoughts. There is no possible antagonism between ideals of citizenship in men and women; the ideal for both is based on love and sacrifice. The magnificent way in which millions of young men have lived and died for this ideal fills us with pride and thankfulness; and from all sides we hear evidence of these splendid qualities in all classes. Every one of the reports of the Whitley Commission contains evidence of this; and there are also innumerable testimonies that women in all classes are animated by the same feelings. No doubt we have all been asking ourselves how their previous education and training have fitted women to fulfil the duties of citizenship. I confess I take a somewhat optimistic view of the answer that should be given to this question. In the world at large we see society controlled and influenced by two contending principles—competition and co-operation. In the

business world, in politics, in many professions, in the relations between different countries, competition gets the upper hand; each individual, group, section, or country, tries to get all it can for itself without taking much account of those who are less successful in the struggle. In the home, on the contrary, and in a few other places, such as the wards of hospitals, the spirit of co-operation, of mutual helpfulness, and the protection of the weak, prevails over the spirit of competition. At home we do not snatch the best place, or the best food, or the most comfortable chair, regardless of what others have, or have to go without. The principle in the home is not "Every man for himself and the devil take the hindermost." It is to protect the weak, the very old, and the very young, and to guard and sustain the helpless. I am far from saying that there are not uses in the spirit of competition; but it seems to me that we are rather overdone with it in our public life, and that the addition to the electorate of a group of citizens whose main practical education has been in the home, will have its uses; for no one would deny that in the education of practical life the home, and all it stands for, loom larger in the lives of women than they do in the lives of men. In so far as this is true, the domestic experience of women is no bad preparation for the duties of citizenship, and a mother's love is no bad schooling for love of country.

The Future of Maternity Centres.

During the last fifteen years, in nearly all our large towns, Maternity Centres have been started. At these centres, week by week, thousands of mothers voluntarily seek advice on the subject of the health of their babies, and, what is as important, on their own health at all points where it touches that of their children. The centres have generally been started, and are still, for the most part, controlled by committees of volunteers; and although their usefulness has now been given a rather tardy recognition from the Government, they still receive entirely inadequate financial support either for the maintenance or for the extension of their work.

A study of the development of any successful voluntary centre will show that difficulties which might well have frightened the boldest social worker have been courageously met and to a large extent overcome. It will show that the committee has collected money, engaged suitable, and fearlessly dismissed unsuitable, superintendents and nurses, and that it has established a network of relationships with all important local groups, with borough councils, religious bodies, charitable organisations, hospitals, and the local medical and nursing professions and midwives' associations. Yet even although the movement is dependent on the goodwill, and involves the interests of so many groups, there is no sign of its breaking down or failing under the strain. On the contrary, there is no movement of our time that has met with such a response; or has so strikingly appealed to so many different classes of people. The result has been, in spite of some failures, and in spite of ample room for further development and improvement, a wholly surprising and most inspiriting success. When rightly understood and organised, there is no social work of our time that gives such hope for the future. This success is not simply to be attributed to the desire of all right-minded people to do something to repair the ravages of a hideous war, or even to the awakening of our rulers to the value of infant life.

The cause lies deeper. For the first time in the history of our country, the opportunity has been given to the neglected and voteless class of working women of expressing and, to a small extent, satisfying a genuine desire for knowledge and advice in what most nearly concerns their best interests—the health of their children. And we should never forget that it is only where the mothers are the chief workers that a centre succeeds. No number of weekly weighings, and not even a pure and cheap milk supply, can do lasting good to the babies if the centre fails in obtaining the active and steady co-operation of the mother.

The advice given demands in all cases from the mother patience, self-sacrifice, and self-restraint. When that advice has been followed, the mother has acquired the most valuable result of education—the power of taking long instead of short views of life.

This co-operation of the mothers has been made possible by the fact that the knowledge and advice which they have asked for has been given them in good faith, and with patience and courtesy. The social workers have had a simple and healthy relationship with the mothers. They have had a service to perform, not a charity to offer, not even a sermon to preach. They have fully realised that the mothers with whom they are working have as full a measure of the virtues of thrift and independence as they have themselves; and, in addition to this, being in continual contact with the professional knowledge of their medical and nursing staff, they have learnt to walk warily, and to approach their task with modesty. But with all the energy and goodwill of the amateurs this work could not have succeeded if it had not appealed to the most enlightened and far-seeing members of the great medical profession. They have seen not only that it opens a new region of social and national usefulness, but that the wide opportunity of studying the normal mother and baby may have important scientific results in their own professional work.

Again, the movement has been supported by those members of the gallant and sadly over-worked profession of nursing who have the breadth and elasticity of mind to realise that the only hope for the permanent good health of a child lies in the education of the mother. Such nurses have been willing to sacrifice their natural pride in quick professional results, and to be content with a more distant aim by the slow method of understanding individual characters and difficulties, and by giving, bit by bit, to our mothers such knowledge as their circumstances enable them to use. The qualities that this work calls for and develops in our nurses, are of a really high order. It should therefore be the aim of all governing bodies engaged in such work to give their nurses hours and pay that admit of reasonable recreation and prevent the narrowing effects of incessant overwork and anxiety.

If great things have been done—and we may make that claim, although we know that there are greater things to do—it is, I think, because in this work no class of women is recognised except those who feel the need of knowledge and those who have knowledge to give.

But the time has come when we hear on all sides that the work has grown too large and its national importance too great for its control to be left in private hands. I make no plea that the work of the centres should be retained in those hands. Some voluntary committees are unsuccessful, and have many of the faults of stiffness and want of sympathy which are popularly ascribed to State or Municipal organisations. Some Town Councils are doing splendid work in the Maternity Centres. Public bodies have obvious advantages. They have regular funds to dispose of; they have a permanency that no private body can rely on; and, more important still, they will give ultimately a voice in their policy to the working-women voters themselves.

But I would point out that centres may have the most perfect machinery, and that attendance may by compulsion become universal, and yet the spirit of co-operation in the mothers that has been so marvellously won may be lost.

I would plead that in any scheme put forward by the Government, it should be recognised that the State is dealing with work in an experimental stage, where much may be gained by investigation of what has been already done, and by the study of local needs and possibilities. I would plead that the bodies which take over the control of our centres should have ample representation from among those who have done the slow work of building up the centres, and from among those doctors and volunteers who know the neighbourhood and the mothers as individuals.

And I would further urge that work which has succeeded only by unity of aim among different groups, whose faith was in knowledge and education, ought to be handed over to those municipal bodies whose record of enlightened public service is the best. Different centres may be run by different bodies in different parts of the country, but in London the fact that the mothers are already in direct relationship during the school years of their children with the London County Council, and that that body has taken during its existence a wide and enlightened conception of its duties, make it beyond a doubt the authority to which this new and important work should be entrusted.

ADA WALLAS.

The Saving of Child-Life.

A series of papers on "The Mortalities of Birth, Infancy, and Childhood," have lately been approved for publication by the Medical Research Committee (published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1s. 6d. net). They embody the results of research undertaken mainly with a view to finding out the directions to which effort to save child-life can be directed with the best result. One of the most important questions with which they deal is the relative influence of pre-natal and post-natal conditions upon infant health, and the investigations described by Dr. Brend tend to show that the latter are the more important. Comparing the statistics of favourably and unfavourably situated classes, the latter being those in which malnutrition and poor physical development are common among expectant mothers, Dr. Brend says:—

"If defective pre-natal conditions are the main cause of infant mortality, we should expect the difference in these classes to be greatest in the early weeks of life, and to decrease as the child gets older and farther from the original injurious influence. On the other hand, if the post-natal environment is responsible, we should expect the difference to increase the longer the children are exposed to it. And this is exactly what happens."

In Hampstead and Shoreditch, for instance, the actual infant mortality is almost identical during the first week of existence, but in the first month Shoreditch is 25 per cent. higher, and at ten to twelve months it is more than six times as high.*

The opinion of various workers among the poor, that if the infants of the working classes had the same surroundings as those of the wealthier classes during early life they would develop into equally well-grown and healthy children, finds support from Dr. Kerr-Love's observation that the children of the poorest mothers in Glasgow weigh on an average 7.1 lbs. at birth, the average weight of a healthy infant being 7 lbs.

Pollution of the atmosphere is one of the factors of town life which Dr. Brend considers most harmful to infants:—

"Dirtiness of the air appears to be the constant accompaniment of a high infant mortality; purity of the atmosphere is the one great advantage which the agricultural labourer of Wiltshire, the Connaught peasant, and the poverty-stricken crofter of the Highlands enjoy over the resident in the town."

Bad housing and overcrowding are, of course, also the causes of a great deal of sickness and death among infants. Often children come into hospital suffering from such illnesses as broncho-pneumonia, and are sent back home almost well, only, to return to hospital in a month or so suffering from a relapse, because their home conditions are so unhealthy.

With regard to the industrial employment of women, which used at one time to be considered such a great cause of infant mortality in towns, the Report states that special investigations have failed to establish a close and constant connection between women's labour and high infant mortality. In Wigan, for example, where only 12 per cent. of the total of married women and widows are engaged in non-domestic work, the infant mortality rate was 180 in 1913, whereas in the textile town of Rochdale, with a percentage of 28.50 employed, the rate was only 106. Dr. Greenwood, formerly Medical Officer of Health for Blackburn, found little difference in the infant mortality rates among children of mothers industrially employed and those not so occupied, and came to the conclusion that no case has been made out for further restrictive legislation.

SOME JANUARY MAGAZINES.

The January number of THE ENGLISHWOMAN starts with an article by Mr. W. Adamson, M.P., on Women and the Labour Party, in which he shows the need for women to take their proper place in the councils of the Party and explains the new constitution which has been drawn up with that end in view. Miss Lowndes, in an article entitled *Gradus ad Parnassus*, analyses the reasons for the rapid progress which the Women's Suffrage Movement has made since the war. M. C. Malim discusses English Political Ideals, Past and Future. Other articles are "Dr. Elsie Inglis," by Dr. Curcin, and "Women in the Teaching Profession," by Mrs. Croom Johnson.

Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE will note with interest that the monthly organ of the Church League for Women's Suffrage is henceforth to be known as *The Church Militant*. The League, which has as its basic principle the spiritual equality of the sexes, is looking forward to the increased opportunities for the realisation of its aims which will follow the passage into law of the Representation of the People Bill, whilst its work of obtaining for the laywoman of the Church of England the same rights and privileges as the layman does or shall possess, is already giving promise of fulfilment. The leading article of the November issue of the paper summarises the position thus: "During the past eight years we have been demanding insistently that the spiritual equality of the sexes should find expression in the ordering of Church and State, and calling upon those who are our fellow Churchmen to recognise the duty of giving effect to their private convictions in their public conduct. We rejoice to think that our labour has not been wholly in vain, that we have been able to contribute something to the forces which are now sweeping on to assured victory. But we aspire to wider efforts. We live in a world that is permeated by social injustice, by ills which have their origin in social neglect, and we desire to stand in the vanguard of the Church as it advances to attack the evils of our common life by stirring into action the common will. So, according to the light vouchsafed to us, shall we best serve the cause of Christ's Church militant here on earth."

THE LANDSWOMAN. (The St. Catherine Press, Stamford Street, E.C. 2d. monthly.)

The Woman's Land Army has now a magazine of its own, which it shares with the Federation of Women's Institutes. The first number contains a variety of articles on different aspects of farm work, some of them written by landswomen themselves, and a number of very attractive illustrations. It has also an article on Women's Institutes, and will each month contain Institute news, descriptions of schemes of co-operation and of the formation of village industries, recipes, household hints, and other particulars that have hitherto been circulated privately among the Institutes. There is also a Club Page, in which the editor will reply to correspondents and experts will answer questions about farm work. The editor undertakes to do shopping for landworkers, and to give advice on making blouses, getting up entertainments, and other matters on which the landworker may seek counsel.

SOME USEFUL BOOKS.

THE WORKING WOMAN'S HOUSE. (The Woman's Labour League, 1, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1, price 1d. each (1½d. post free), 8d. per dozen (9d. post free), 5s. per 100 (5s. 6d. post free).

A great task of reconstruction will be the building of houses for the working people. The Women's Labour League, representing working women all over the country, have just published a leaflet setting forth what working women want, and urging them to define still further their views upon the Housing question. The leaflet contains plans of two good cottages containing what the League believe to be the minimum accommodation for an average-sized family. It also contains a list of questions with regard to matters of detail in planning and construction, (to all of which answers are invited), dealing with such matters as the parlour, scullery-kitchen, wash-house, number of cupboards, type of windows, hot water and baths. The Women's Labour League which has started an active campaign on this subject, is also willing to send speakers to any conferences of working women.

FOOD GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS AND EXPERTS. By H. Valentine Davis, B.Sc. (G. Bell & Sons Ltd. 6d.)

A great deal of information is here packed into a small space, and the "busy worker" who is an occasional, or week-end gardener, will find this a handy book of reference, though the "expert," to whose use it is also dedicated, may be inclined to murmur: "I knew all this long ago."

There are useful suggestions on the cropping of an allotment or kitchen garden, and concise notes on the culture of the more important vegetables. At the end comes the following golden sentence on vegetable cookery:—

"Vegetables that are boiled in water and the water thrown away are of very little value. We don't boil the leaves of the tea plant, throw the liquid away, and eat the leaves."

RENOVATION OF THE HOUSE IN WAR TIME. By Arthur Seymour Jennings, F.I.B.D. (Constable. 1s.)

A valuable little handbook containing hints on house painting and decorating, including advice as to the best kind of material to use, the method of applying it, and the care of brushes, &c. It contains also a chapter on removing stains from various fabrics and metals. The writer maintains, from the experience of his own wife, that women can quite well renovate their homes themselves if they have the necessary materials and a clear explanation how to apply them.

COOKERY FOR WORKING-MEN'S WIVES. By Martha Gordon. (Paisley. Alexander Gardner. 3d.)

The recipes in this little volume do not include anything at all out of the common, and some of them do not seem to have taken war time conditions sufficiently into account; but the directions given are practical, and it is an advantage to the housewife who does not possess a scale to have the measures given by the cupful. Notes are given on the benefits derived from cooking food, by Dr. William Snodgrass, and some useful hints on washing, sanitation, and what to do till the doctor comes, and there is an introduction by Dr. James B. Russell.

SAVINGS AND SAVOURY DISHES (A. & C. Black. 1s. 6d.) gives some excellent cooking recipes adapted to present-day conditions, with suggestions as to how to obtain the highest value in foods at the lowest cost, how to save food, to use up scraps, and to economise in household cleaning materials, household linen, linoleum, &c. There is a chapter of "don'ts" for the patriotic household during the war, and another on children's diet. And Dr. Chalmers Watson has written a short preface.

"*Is Sugar a Necessity?*" and "*The Importance of Fat in Diet*" are the titles of two leaflets issued by the National Food Reform Association from its temporary address, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1. Copies, with information regarding cookery lessons by "The Pudding Lady" may be had by sending three penny stamps.

* In connection with this, it is interesting to note that Hampstead was the first borough in London to appoint health visitors.

Correspondence.

PRISON OR FRIENDSHIP?

MADAM,—The State Children's Association is deeply concerned at the number of children between 15 and 18 who are sent to prison for periods varying from seven days to six months. The overcrowded state of reformatories and Borstal institutions—due to the tide of lawlessness which has arisen amongst the young as a result of war conditions—is perhaps responsible in some measure for this state of things. Whatever its cause, it is deplorable that young persons should become familiarised with prison life and conditions, and thus be thrust further into crime. For our prison system—as we know to our cost—is never reformative. Moreover, imprisonment is unnecessary, for the Justices have another method which they can employ for young delinquents, whose desire for adventure and whose inexperience of life have landed them in the juvenile or in the ordinary Police Court.

In some London and Provincial Courts the system of probation is used with such admirable effect that numbers of young persons, after a probationary term, make no further appearance before the Justices. In others this method is employed but little, and in a fashion which prohibits success.

In August last, the Home Office issued a valuable letter to Justices, calling their attention to the need for an increased use of probation, and pointing out the advisability of securing voluntary helpers, to prevent probation officers being overburdened with cases, as some of them undoubtedly are. The letter emphasised the necessity of securing as probation workers "persons of intelligence, active and in real sympathy with those coming under their supervision," and stated that some of the existing officers are too old or are wanting in a knowledge of modern reformative methods. It is undoubtedly true that the best help obtainable is not too good to be of service to eager and imaginative youth.

The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to appeal to such of your readers—men or women—as have sympathy with and understanding of the young, to offer their services to their local bench of magistrates as voluntary probation officers for one, two, or more children, as their time and powers permit. There can be no more important work than that of befriending these boys and girls who are rapidly graduating for citizenship. It is confidently affirmed that the seeds of criminality are sown before the age of sixteen. We venture to affirm with equal confidence that under the influence of a steadying friendship, the greater number of juvenile offenders of to-day would become trustworthy citizens of to-morrow.

LYTTON, *Chairman.*
HENRY BENTINCK, GEORGE TOULMIN, *Vice-Chairmen.*
ALBERT SPICER, *Chairman of Parliamentary Committee.*
LOUISE OLIVER, FRANCA BUXTON, *Hon. Treasurers.*
HENRIETTA O. BARNETT, *Hon. Secretary.*

THE CHECKING OF PROFITEERING.

MADAM,—May I venture to suggest that the National Union of Suffrage Societies should inaugurate a campaign against profiteering, both in the interests of women and as a patriotic endeavour to help Sir Arthur Yapp and Lord Rhondda?

Business being chiefly in the hands of men, and catering and housekeeping in the hands of women, profiteering is essentially a matter of deep concern to women. I will mention one or two instances of profiteering which have come under my notice. We heard on all sides that there was a bumper harvest of apples this year, and yet the prices at which they are sold are higher than ever. I bought some Cox's pippins at 3½d. per lb. from a grower, and yet they have been sold at Covent Garden and elsewhere at 10d. Again, a couple of weeks ago an itinerant fish-vendor told me that there had been a wonderful catch of herrings off Hastings—one boat alone making £250, and two full nets had to be left owing to lack of labour. In spite of this he had been obliged to pay 1½d. each for his fish wholesale, and was retailing them at 2d. and 3d. One wonders why we are allowed no benefit from the few articles that are plentiful and should be cheap.

I will give an example of rather a different nature. I asked the price of a 2-lb. tin of golden syrup. I was told 1s. 6d., and I politely refused to buy it. Strange to say, the following day I saw an advertisement from Lyle's, stating that the retail price of their 2-lb. jars of syrup should not exceed 1s. 2½d. I infer that the syrup in question might well have been sold at this figure too.

In some cases of flagrant abuse the police are lax. I understand that a certain shop in this place was raided for hoarding sugar, and yet the police contented themselves with giving a warning, and failed to prosecute! Women should boycott shops that hoard and those that ask exorbitant prices.

VIOLET H. JACOB.

THE TEACHER.

MADAM,—A "Happy High-School Teacher" voices the opinion of a few—a very few of the more fortunate teachers; Carol Ring gives the point of view of the elementary school teachers—the vast majority of all whose vocation is teaching. The conditions of life are totally different—a high school teacher has a comparatively small class of upper-middle class children. Their parents are generally educated and intelligent; they like their children to associate with clever people, so their homes are open to the high-school mistress and she is welcomed.

What about the teacher in the slum schools of our towns! The classes are large (fifty, sixty, or more of more or less dirty, badly-clad, sometimes hungry children). Part of the parents are actively hostile, many are indifferent, perhaps a *few* are sympathetic. But they have no "evening parties, garden parties, excursions, and the like," and they would not dream of inviting their child's teacher to tea—they cannot afford it.

Again we are told "The enthusiastic teacher cares little about high remuneration," and further, "she can rest, entertain her friends, and generally develop her individuality." Nay—she cannot. A high-school mistress may be able to do this—her salary is greater than that of the elementary school teacher, but the latter, belonging to the "Great Unpaid Profession," must tax her brains to make both ends meet. "Development of individuality" requires freedom from sordid care, and an elementary school teacher has not that.

By Appointment to H.M. The King

A Scheme of National Importance

In view of the scarcity of milk and the insistent demand from thousands of Mothers for NESTLÉ'S MILK in preference to dried milk or anything else, we have as far as possible restricted the sale for ordinary household purposes, in order to secure adequate supplies for infant feeding.

We have arranged to issue on special terms regular supplies of our milk to Infant Welfare Centres, Crèches and similar institutions, and invite the Committee of any such institution which has not already received details to write for particulars.

NESTLÉ'S MILK

is *pure* milk—the best and richest full-cream, to which nothing has been added but pure sugar. It has 50 years' reputation behind it for what it has been *proved* to be—the best and *only safe* substitute for the breast.

Write for copy of "Nestlé's Baby Book, 1917," the most remarkable Baby Book ever issued. *Post free on application to*

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Size	Price	Covers
10 × 6	3/6	10d.
12 × 6	4/-	1/-
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All teaching of an eminently practical and effective nature, calculated to be of real use.

Longer or shorter courses can be arranged.

References to parents of past pupils.

Apply to MISS MILDRED RANSOM,
195-197, EDGWARE RD., LONDON, W.2

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

If my advice were asked about joining the teaching profession I would say "Don't"; consider not only the short hours and the long holidays, but look at the other side of the picture, and then you "Won't" enter the crowded class-room and the almost blind-alley occupation of

AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER.

INSURANCE OF MARRIED WOMEN.

MADAM,—As officials of a Women's Insurance Society approved under the National Health Insurance Acts, we have been much interested in the correspondence on the Insurance Bill.

This being a woman's society is managed by women, and when administering the benefits we like to know and remember the needs of the members who work hard for the monies they contribute. On the question of options on marriage we consider that Clause 22 in the new Bill is an improvement on Section 44 of the 1911 Acts.

We differ entirely from Miss Bondfield in her views on the option given to women, of having £2 as a marriage benefit or continuing in Insurance for a certain period. We consider such option fair and reasonable.

Important as maternity is it should not obscure the claims of women who have paid insurance contributions for many years and may not have children.

Miss Bondfield speaks of a "pregnancy sickness grant, payable only when a society was disposed to recognise pregnancy as a disability." In 1916 we paid sixty-one maternity claims, and only four out of that number claimed and received sickness benefit previous to confinement. Our experience is that a great number of women are perfectly healthy when in that condition, and would resent the suggestion that they were disabled because they were pregnant.

SARAH REDDISH, Chairman.
SARAH DICKENSON, Secretary.

Manchester and Salford Women's Trade Society,
5, John Dalton Street, Manchester.

MADAM,—Perhaps Miss Macarthur's letter on this subject published in your issue of December 14th, reads more clearly to a fellow expert than to the general public. The latter may well feel that they had a right to expect more from her than allusions to the Davidson Case and criticism of insurance societies. They might have looked for some resolute demands for amending legislation before the Agreed Bill went to the House. For the bare facts remain that according to the Judge's interpretation of the Act in the Davidson Case a woman ceases to be insured at each confinement, she cannot re-insure until she resumes work, by the new Bill she must qualify for 42 weeks, and re-insure as a late entrant with reduced benefits. The bride is to be tempted to accept £2 as full satisfaction of all the compulsory payments of her probably six or seven years of healthy maidenhood, and so be ejected from the Insurance Act at the moment when statistics have proved it will be most necessary for her.

Surely this is a most blatant illustration of the crying injustice of appointing only one or two women on these important Commissions, and especially here where it was known that women's insurance was uncertain and had been entirely neglected until the last moment.

In this case the men's funds are to be lightened of the maternity benefit at the expense of the mothers. It is true the Government will pay a fixed sum for those mothers who have succeeded in surmounting even this political obstacle race, but, meanwhile, we know that rivers of unlimited State money will flow for the unemployment insurance benefit. It is only the mothers for whom money is unavailable; the husbands' and fathers' funds must be sacred to them, more especially since it has become obvious that maternity benefit should be paid direct to the mother and not to the father, while the women's funds may pay all the heavy current sickness of the married women. Truly we are far from the days when men insured primarily for the benefit of wife and children. And it is characteristic of us that after all the flag-wagging of Baby Week, and to the cheers of the House of Commons, the most sacred and most helpless class of the nation have, without comment, been triumphantly deprived of their pre-eminent rights under the National Health Insurance Act.

BLANCHE SMYTH-PIGOTT.

THE SHORTAGE OF MILK.

MADAM,—In winter time babies and children need more food, nourishment, and warmth, and yet milk, their chief diet, is almost unobtainable, its price practically prohibitive in a family of small children.

For every effect there is always a cause. We all know too well the effect. Let us enquire into the cause. And that cause can be given in a few words.

The farmer is selling the docile mother cows for slaughter, because the prices offered him are too tempting to refuse. Mankind will insist upon having meat, even, apparently, at the expense of the babies and children Butter is almost unbuyable, cream cheeses hardly obtainable, cream is only allowed for invalids, and with all this curtailment of the use of milk, it is still to-day 8d. a quart. Condensed milk is 1s. 1½d. per tin. Some infants require a tin of the latter per day, according to age.

Save the babies! Save the children! is the constant exhortation to the people. But they are deprived of the practical means to save them. Mothers journey from shop to shop, mostly getting in reply to their request, "Out of stock!" "Not in yet!"

Even if easily obtained, the present price alone puts a premium on the health of the child, as numerous parents cannot afford that sum; and furthermore, many mothers are not well enough to go hunting in this manner in all kinds of inclement weather for milk, the "condensed" or the ordinary kind.

What is to be done? One thing we can do. Let us refuse to eat meat. There are plenty of substitutes, strengthening and fattening, too numerous to mention, and at much less cost than meat, and without causing pain or suffering to produce. If not too late, the price of milk will then be quickly reduced to within the reach of all. Then the weary and worn mother and the child crying for regular nourishment will be a thing of the past. If each one will do his or her share in this urgent matter, they will be real humanitarians, and will have the happiness and joy of knowing that they are helping to save the infants and children in a practical way.

H. J. BAYLIS.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
MISS VIOLET EUSTACE.
MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary).
MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
MRS. AUERBACH.
Secretary (pro. tem.):
MISS DENEKE.

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, West Cent., London.

Change of Address.

The National Union and THE COMMON CAUSE have moved to Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1., about five minutes' walk from Tottenham Court Road Tube Station, and rather more from Oxford Circus. Telephone number: Museum 2668.

Miss Jetley's Marriage.

Many members of the N.U.W.S.S. will have heard with interest the news of Miss Olive Jetley's marriage to Mr. Errock. She is much missed at the office, where her energy and her enthusiasm made her work extremely valuable to the National Union, but it is very pleasant to hear that she is not severing her connection with the Suffrage movement in her new home at Rochdale. The Information Bureau and the Press Department have passed over to the charge of Mrs. Kentish Wright, who has for some time done valued work for THE COMMON CAUSE.

Literature Department.

A leaflet entitled "The New Privilege of Freedom" has been published. This emphasises the responsibility of the vote, and shows how women should enter upon it. The price is 2s. 9d. per 100. (Postage, 4d.)

APPRECIATION OF THE N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

Miss Kathleen Burke, of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, who arrived in England a few weeks ago from America, and set off again immediately on a visit to the Italian Front, brought with her many testimonies of the sympathy for our Hospitals which is felt both in the United States and in Canada.

The following letter is from Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada:—

"Prime Minister's Office,
"Canada. Ottawa.
"October 29th, 1917.

"DEAR MISS BURKE,—When you return overseas it would give me great pleasure if you would convey to those who are engaged in the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals my deep sense of the appreciation of the splendid devotion and courage with which they have undertaken their errand of mercy in so many theatres of the war. I have had occasion from time to time to learn something of what heroic service they have rendered, and no praise could be too high for the splendid spirit in which this service has been given. It has been especially valuable in that it has brought aid and comfort to many who in certain theatres would otherwise have received little or no care whatever.—Believe me, yours faithfully,

"ROBERT BORDEN."

Another message comes from Doctor Henry Van Dyke, formerly American Ambassador to Holland, and a distinguished poet and man of letters, much loved and esteemed throughout the States. He writes:—

"Take with you a hearty greeting from America to the Scottish Women's Hospitals and to all the other societies and organisations—yes, and to the British women outside of societies and organisations who are faithfully working to help to win this war and bring a real, true, lasting peace to the world. Our women here have a fine example before them in the things which have been done by the women of France and Great Britain. My hope and belief are that American womanhood will meet that appeal and come up to that high mark. God bless you and keep you well and strengthen you always for your work."

The Mayor of San Francisco, after warm words of appreciation of Miss Burke's splendid work, writes:—

"May I ask you to take greetings to the women of the Scottish Women's Hospitals from the largest city of Western America. Your account of their unceasing work and their heroic devotion have brought them close to our hearts. You have made their work our work and we feel that they welcome us as friends as we bring America's crushing participation into the war. We admire them as types of Britain's splendid women, giving the best of their lives to help their men. Once more, greetings to them and to you."

We are glad to be able to convey these messages to the supporters of the Hospitals through the pages of THE COMMON CAUSE.

AN INCIPIENT WOMEN'S CITIZENS ASSOCIATION.

It is thought that the founding of a Women's Citizens Association in a South Coast town may usefully be recorded even though the movement is as yet in its earliest stages. The local Women's Suffrage Society having been called together and having approved the project, a sub-committee was formed and an experienced organiser was supplied from headquarters. Leaflets indicating the objects of the association, addresses delivered to the Women's Co-operative and Railway Women's Guilds, personal visits of the organiser to members of these and other women's associations in the ward selected for inaugurating the work, resulted in a good afternoon meeting, and that in the formation of a working ward committee, with secretary, treasurer, and chairman. Similar means were employed a fortnight later in the next ward with equally good results. Meanwhile a central committee had been formed by adding to the suffrage society's sub-committee representatives—official or unofficial—of the N.U.W.W., W.L.G.A., B.T.W.A., W.C.G. and Railway Women's Guild; the Federation of Women Workers has also agreed to be represented. The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Suffrage Society have been chosen to act in the same capacity to this Central W.C.A. Committee. The objects of the Association are stated on the leaflet:—

1. To foster the sense of citizenship in women.
2. To encourage self-education in civic and political questions.

For this purpose "Women of varying types and occupations are invited to unite on the common ground of citizenship to discuss matters which closely affect the lives of all, and to help in the formation of a healthy and instructed public opinion on both local and national affairs." A list of "subjects eminently suitable" includes: Prices and distribution of milk and food locally. Women's Municipal Councils. The children's educational opportunities. Local housing, &c., &c. Membership of the Association is open to all women over the age of 18, and, for the present, is not confined to those living in a ward where an association has already been formed. The annual subscription is 1s. and this is collected by the local treasurer and paid over to the Centre. The Suffrage Society is at present responsible for financing the undertaking.

The January meeting of the first-formed Ward Association will discuss "The Food Question" in connection especially with communal kitchens. No. 2 Ward Association has chosen "Women Councillors" as its subject and hopes to be addressed by the lady who has just been returned to the local Council.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MANCHESTER W.S.S.

The Annual Meeting of the Manchester Society was held on Tuesday, December 11th, in the Milton Hall. Professor Weiss, F.R.S., presided in the absence of the Chairman, Mrs. T. C. Waterhouse. The Chairman expressed the society's profound regret at the death of Dr. Elsie Inglis, whose work and character had earned the gratitude of our Allies, and the regard and affection of thousands of her countrymen. The society had lost one of its oldest and staunchest members through the death of Miss Lindsay, whose advocacy of the Cause had been more especially in the Liberal Party and whose devotion had led her to great personal sacrifice.

After the election of Officers and Committee, the reports, including that of the S.W.H. (Manchester beds) were adopted. The report contained the following paragraph on the future of W.S. Societies:—

"The need for an organisation for the furtherance of those reforms that are essentially and specially within women's competence, outside, but not in opposition to their activities within the recognised political parties, is a matter generally agreed. The problem, therefore, is how to complete our work of obtaining the further measure of political enfranchisement which is our due, while working for the general enfranchisement of women in the social, political, and economic spheres. The suffrage societies of the past will need thus to enlarge their field of activity, or through lack of the proper machinery at the opportune moment, fail to accomplish their original purpose. Several schemes are now before the N.U. Societies, and this society will have more than one opportunity of expressing its desires in more or less detail before the next meeting of the N.U. Council."

In his address Professor Weiss urged the need of outside pressure to advance those reforms which seemed to be specially urgent in the interests of women. Just as the cause of Women's Suffrage had been best forwarded by a non-party body of opinion, united in method, so many causes could be best attained for the present by what he called a sort of protection although ultimately the interests of men and women would converge in legislation as they do actually.

Miss E. Rathbone then outlined her scheme for the future of the National Union. Her wide definition of "equality" as a positive test, which aims at what might be called "equivalence" rather than "identity," was the basis of a most inspiring address. It opened out many possibilities for work, both in legislative reforms and administrative and educational work. Her suggestions for the "bureau" were especially attractive in a large city in which nearly all local reforms are, or can be, covered by "specialised" organisations, especially, of course, the Women's Citizens Association. A discussion followed, in which Mr. Armstrong, Mrs. Thoday, Miss Ashton, and Miss Page took part.

Another members' meeting will be held, when the society will make its decision as to its own future policy, and members are invited to informal discussions in the office on Tuesday afternoons throughout January.

"The Common Cause" Fund.

We most gratefully acknowledge the following donations that have been kindly sent by our readers towards the expenses of carrying on THE COMMON CAUSE:—

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Miss Wise	1 0	Miss Dangerfield	1 0 0
Mrs. Hunt (Newport W.S.S.) ...	1 0		
			£1 2 0

The pamphlet on THE FRANCHISE BILL, issued some time ago by the National Council for Adult Suffrage (27, Chancery Lane, W.C. 2. 3d. post free) has now been brought up-to-date, so as to include the amendments made on Report stage and on the recommittal of Clause 8.

The sale without an equal

Peter Robinson's Great Winter Sale

in progress during January

THIS Sale affords the very opportunity for economical buying that you and thousands of others have been waiting for. The Values will surprise you—they are positively unsurpassable.

Bargains in Afternoon Frocks

The "Sonia."

CHARMING Afternoon Gown in extra heavy-weight Crêpe-de-Chine; bodice lined Jap. silk. Available in the following shades only: Black, navy, bottle, nigger, wine and putty. W. size only. **Sale Price 75/-**

A limited quantity, which cannot be repeated.

The "Alma."

USEFUL and attractive Frock in good quality Eolienne; the Jumper is daintily embroidered, finely gathered at waist and finished with pockets. Available in black, navy, nigger, bottle, mole, prune, amethyst, saxe, and grey. W. size only. **Sale Price 73/6**

A limited quantity, which cannot be repeated.

The "Constance."

SMART Afternoon Gown in Chiffon Taffeta: the bodice is arranged with vest of Ninon over Oriental trimming; sleeves of Ninon to tone lined white; bodice lined Jap. silk; new straight skirt. Available in black, navy and all colours. W. size. **Sale Price 70/-**

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N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H., Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to December 13th, 1917	268,312	2	1
Further donations received to December 27th, 1917:—			
*George Watson's Ladies' College, Edinburgh, per Miss Ainslie	3	0	0
Central Sussex W.S.S., per Miss E. C. Bevan, Hon. Gen. Sec., result of collection at Miss Holme's lecture and of a jumble sale at Cuckfield ...	26	0	0
Miss Agnes Boyd Anderson, per Messrs. Anderson & Pattison	5	0	0
Miss Isabella L. Kesting ...		10	0
*Funds raised by public subscriptions in the Colony of Hongkong, administered by the Hongkong War Charities Com., per Murray Stewart, Esq.	100	0	0
*Irish Ladies' Golfing Union, per Miss Clara M. Inglis, Hon. Treas., to continue "Irish Ladies' Golfing Union" bed, Corsica	10	0	0
*Workers' Subs., Messrs. J. & G. Cox Ltd., per Wm. B. Sampson, Esq., Sec., per Miss Jamieson	3	12	6
Mr. and Mrs. Erskine Hill ...	3	0	0
Miss Marr	1	0	0
Mrs. Cunningham Steele, for "Heriot Row" bed, Corsica		10	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: *Employees Messrs. Portland Forge Co. Ltd. (29th con.) ...	1	16	4
*Collected in Chorley, per Miss Curwen, Organiser S.W.H., per George Whiteway, Esq.: Total collected, £113 15s.; expenses, £9 8s. 8d.	104	5	4
*Anonymous	1	0	0
Working Girls' Bible Class, per Miss M. H. Taylor		11	0
*Colin and Neil Logan McCall Smith, to continue "Providence" bed, Salonica	25	0	0
*Miss Katherine B. Hill ...	5	0	0
Lady Cassillis, per Miss Mair...	1	1	0
*Kentish Fed. W.S.S., per Miss Druce, Hon. Treas.: To continue "Kentish Federation" bed, Royaumont, for fourth year, £50; General Funds, £33 13s. 2d. — Anonymous (£50), Tunbridge Wells Branch (£10), Collection (Sevenoaks) (£5 4s. 2d.), Miss Druce (£5), Mrs. Rogers (£5), Mrs. Percy Thompson (£5), Mrs. Woodall (£1 1s.), Miss Hensman (10s. 6d.), Mrs. Bull (10s.), Deal, Walmer, Kingsdown and District Branch (5s.), Mrs. Forbes (5s.), Miss Randolph (5s.), Mrs. Scott (5s.), Miss A. D. Scott (5s.), Mrs. Courtency (2s. 6d.)	83	13	2
*Miss J. M. Barker, "In Memory of Dr. Inglis"	10	0	0
Mrs. A. J. Alison, for "Heriot Row" bed, Corsica	1	1	0
Melville Gray, Esq.	2	0	0
*Proceeds from sale of a Booklet, entitled "Our Square," written by Miss Macdonald, per Miss Ainslie...	1	0	0
*Professor Scott, one packet of Chinese stamps, per Mrs. Laurie		5	0
*Scarborough W.S.S., per Miss Rowantree, to name a "Scarborough" bed, Salonica ...	25	0	0
Ladies' Work Parties of the Parish Church, per Mrs. Murdoch	5	0	0
Kells Women's Parish Guild, for comforts for Nurse C. E. Browne's patients in Salonica, per Miss Mary M. R. Sanderson, Hon. Sec.	2	0	0
Mrs. Carter, for "Ainslie Place" bed, Salonica	10	0	0
Mrs. Stuart and Miss Mitchell, 10s. each for "Moray Place" bed, American Unit	1	0	0
*Perth W.S.S., per Miss E. W. R. Alison, Hon. Treas., additional to "Perth" bed, Royaumont	5	13	6
No. 2 Hawick Co. Girls' Guildry, in connection with Hawick Parish Church, per Mrs. Cathels	1	0	0
Result of Sir Frank Benson's lecture in Edinburgh, per Miss Geraldine Cooke	26	13	7
Trades House and Incorporations joint subscriptions to the War Funds, per Harry Lumsden, Esq.	250	0	0
*Mrs. S. Stobbs, per Mrs. Wood	1	0	0
Part proceeds of Flag Day held in Kirriemuir and surrounding districts, on Nov. 30th, on behalf of the Y.M.C.A. and S.W.H., per Wm. Ogilvie, Esq., per J. Allison, Jun., Esq.	25	6	10
*Gateshead W.S.S., per Mrs. J. T. Dunn, Hon. Sec. (£4 2s. 7d.); Private donations (£1 2s.) (November collection) ...	5	4	7
*Manchester Federation Field Hospital, per D. Drummond Fraser, Hon. Treas., per Mrs. Chapman, Hon. Treas.... ...	130	0	0
Mrs. Hall		10	0
Mrs. Pollock	1	1	0
*Manchester Fed. Field Hospital, per D. Drummond Fraser, Esq., Hon. Treas. Manchester and Dist. Field Hospital, S.W.H., per Mrs. Chapman, Hon. Sec. (Corsica)	40	0	0
*Additional donation granted by the War Council, Washington, D.C., American Red Cross, for the S.W.H., per W. Endicott, Esq., per Miss Kathleen Burke ($25,000)	5,232	4	9
*Members of Baberton Golf Club, per Martin McCall, Esq., to continue "Baberton" bed, Corsica	25	0	0
*Mrs. Croom, to continue "David B. Croom" bed, Corsica	10	0	0
G. Harding Edgar, Esq., to continue "Moray Place" bed, American Unit	2	0	0
*Anonymous, to continue "St. Nicholas" bed, American Unit	10	10	0
*T. S. Ronaldson, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Andrew Urquhart, per Miss E. R. Jamieson, Organiser S.W.H....	1	0	0
Mrs. Legat	2	0	0
*Mrs. Pederson	4	0	0
*The Misses Hope		10	0
*Staff of Accountant's Office, G.P.O., Edinburgh, per A. P. Macmanus, Esq., Cashier (7th contribution)	2	0	0
James B. Fraser, Esq., per Messrs. W. MacNeile Dixon...	1	0	0
The Misses Smith	3	0	0
*Clerks in the Claims and Record Office, Kew, per Miss Janet Smith, to continue "Claims and Record Office, Kew," bed, Villers-Cotteret...	6	8	6
Messrs. Andrew Strong & Co. Ltd. (£2), Employees (£3) ...	5	0	0
*Mrs. Cuthbert	2	0	0
Collection taken at lecture by Miss M. G. Creswell	1	13	0
*Edinburgh Ladies' College War Fund, per Dr. D. C. McIntosh, Hon. Treas., to continue "Edinburgh Ladies' College Former Pupils' French Club" bed, Royaumont	25	0	0
*Per Miss Geraldine Cooke, to continue "Moray Place" bed, American Unit: Mrs. and Miss Laurie (£2), Mrs. Arthur Alison (£1), Mrs. Cheyne (£1), Mrs. Cross (£1), Mrs. Brown (£1), F. A. Brown Donylar, Esq. (£1), Wm. Younger, Esq. (£1), Miss Collins (£1), Miss Humber (£1), Mrs. Grainger Stewart (10s.)	10	10	0
Miss I. Hope, one packet of Chinese stamps, per Mrs. Laurie		5	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (80th con.)	2	2	0
*Staff and Girls of Ware Grammar School for Girls, per Miss M. E. Brough	7	10	0
*Per Miss Henderson: Miss Henderson (10s. 6d.), Mrs. Martin (10s.), Miss Graham (5s.)	1	5	6
Proceeds of lecture by Dr. Kathleen Corbett, per Joseph Mitchell, Esq., M.D.	17	10	0
Miss Rae	5	0	0
*Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McLean, per Mrs. Laurie	20	0	0
*Ascot W.S.S., per Miss Forrester, Hon. Treas., to continue the three "Ascot" beds, as follows: 1st "Ascot" bed, Royaumont (£25); 2nd "Ascot" bed, Corsica (£25); 3rd "Ascot" bed (Fay Davis), Royaumont (£25)—£75, less already acknowledged £8 5s. 8d.—(£66 14s. 4d.); to name 4th and 5th "Ascot" beds (£100) (part proceeds of Xmas Sale, Dec. 5th, 1917)	166	14	4
*Per Miss Jamieson, Organiser S.W.H., for Workmen's Scheme: Firm of Messrs. David Callender & Sons (£10), Employees, do. (£4 15s. 6d.); Victoria Rubber Co. (£10); Employees Messrs. E. Chalmers & Co. (£1 7s. 4d.); *Employees MacTaggart, Scott & Co. (£1 19s. 2d.); Literature, appeals, and Munro Kerr Diary, postcards (17s. 5d.)	28	19	5
*Proceeds of Entertainment given by Girls of the VIth Form, High School for Girls, Barnsley, per Miss Ida B. Pyper, Form Mistress ...	7	18	4
*Miss M. K. le Maistre	5	0	0
*Employees Bridgeness Collieries, Bo'ness, per G. Burr, Esq., Sec. (168th con.)... ...	8	5	9
*Per Mrs. Hunter: 3rd instal. from "Chain Teas" (total received £237 7s.)	37	7	0
Mrs. Jackson		2	6
*From a Melbourne Lady, per J. M. G.	1	0	0
Miss France	1	0	0
Mrs. Campbell, "In Memory of Dr. Elsie Inglis"	2	0	0
*Malvern W.S.S., per Miss B. Alder, Hon. Sec., to continue "Malvern Suffrage" bed, Royaumont (£25); General Funds (£5)	30	0	0
*Birkenhead and Dist. W.S.S., per Miss Mary E. Dalby, Hon. Treas., to continue "Birkenhead" bed, Royaumont (December subs. and dons.)	6	5	8
*Miss J. Moston, per Miss M. E. Dalby, to continue "Mary" bed, Royaumont...		2	6
Mrs. Rob. Macfarlane, per Mrs. Laurie	1	0	0
Collection at Carol Service held on Christmas Eve by the St. Andrew's Choir (Female Voices), in Memory of Dr. Elsie Inglis, per Marcus Dods, Esq., per Miss Kemp, Hon. Sec. S.W.H.	26	7	7
*Mrs. Scott Moncrieff	5	0	0
*Douglas Pringle, Esq., per Mrs. Williamson...	20	0	0
David Raeburn, Esq.	2	2	0
*The British Basket Co. Ltd., per J. Naismith, Esq.	10	0	0
Anonymous		5	0
Miss Grant		15	6
*Per Miss Jamieson, Organiser S.W.H.: *Employees Messrs. Munro & Co. (£2 5s. 7d.); *Employees Messrs. MacTaggart, Scott & Co. (£1 18s. 9d.); *Messrs. Thomson & Porteous (£3 15s. 6d.); Mr. J. Cuthbertson (£4 2s. 6d.)	12	2	4
	£275,001	13	1

Further List of Beds Named.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Providence" (Salonica, further six months)	Colin and Neil McCall Smith.
"Kentish Federation" (Royaumont, further 1 year)	Kentish Federation W.S.S., per Miss Druce, Hon. Treas.
"Scarborough" (Salonica, 6 months)...	Scarborough W.S.S., per Miss Rowantree.
"Baberton" (Corsica, further six months)	Baberton Golf Club, per Martin McCall, Esq.
"Edinburgh Ladies' College Former Pupils' French Club" (Royaumont, further 6 months)	Edinburgh Ladies' College War Fund, per Dr. D. C. McIntosh, Hon. Treas.
"Ascot" I. (Royaumont, further six months)	Ascot W.S.S., per Miss Forrester, Hon Treas.
"Ascot" II. (Corsica, further six months)	Ascot W.S.S., per Miss Forrester, Hon Treas.
"Ascot" III. (Fay Davis) (Royaumont, further six months)	Ascot W.S.S., per Miss Forrester, Hon Treas.
"Ascot" IV. (1 year)	Ascot W.S.S., per Miss Forrester, Hon Treas.
"Ascot" V. (1 year)	Ascot W.S.S., per Miss Forrester, Hon Treas.
"Malvern W.S.S." (Royaumont, further 6 months)	Malvern W.S.S., per Miss B. Alder, Hon. Sec.

Interesting Donations Received from the American Red Cross, Washington, D.C.

Following the return of Miss Kathleen Burke from her recent tour in America two very handsome donations of £10,463 10s. 3d. and £5,232 4s. 9d., making the magnificent total of £15,695 15s. 0d., have been forwarded to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H. Headquarters, by Mr. Endicott, Commissioner for the American Red Cross in London on behalf of the War Council of the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C. In his letter sending these donations Mr. Endicott says: "May I take this occasion to say what pleasure we feel in having a share, no matter how slight, in the beneficent work you have in hand." This money has been specially earmarked for our work in France.

Further Donations.

Amongst the latest subscriptions received for the Scottish Women's Hospitals may be mentioned the sums of £250 sent from the "Trades House and Incorporations Joint Subscriptions to the War Funds" per Harry Lumsden, Esq., Glasgow; also a further donation of £100 from the Hong Kong War Charities Committee, as the result of public subscriptions in the colony of Hong Kong.

The Manchester and District Field Hospital Committee, continues to keep up their beds in the Corsica Hospital, a list of these will shortly be published in our weekly bed list.

Further Donations from Liverpool.

Mr. H. F. Fernie, of Liverpool, has just sent in the splendid sum of £100 per Miss Curwen, Organiser, S.W.H. in Lancashire, through the Bank of Liverpool. The sum of £104 has also been sent in as the result of Miss Curwen's Campaign in Chorley.

Chinese Stamps.

Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H., has still several packets of "Chinese Stamps" for sale, and will be glad to hear of any wishing to purchase these stamps. The price is 5s. per packet.

LONDON UNITS OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

Exhibition of Serbo-Croat Art, Grafton Galleries.

The series of lectures which have been held at the Grafton Galleries during the past fortnight have been very well attended. Two of them had special reference to the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield gave an interesting account of the Jugo-Slav Legions in the war on Tuesday, December 18th, and dwelt at some length on the work of the Hospitals in the Dobrudja.

On Thursday, December 20th, Dr. Milan Tchurtchin paid a very high tribute to the devotion of the British nurses for the Serbian wounded, and their bravery during the retreat. His account of that tragic episode in the war was followed with great interest.

On Friday, December 21st, the Scottish Women's Hospitals Executive Committee were At Home at the Serbian Exhibition, and many of those interested in the work of the Hospitals were present.

Memorial Service for Dr. Garrett Anderson.

The Scottish Women's Hospitals were represented by the Viscountess Cowdray, Mrs. Kinnell, and Miss Helen Ward, at the Memorial Service for Dr. Garrett Anderson, held at Christ Church, Endell Street, on December 22nd.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

LONDON UNITS.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12th, at 8.30 p.m.—Mrs. Park, 92, Fellows Road, Hampstead—Speaker: The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield; Chairman: Professor Flinders Petrie, F.R.S.—Cards of invitation may be obtained from Mrs. Park or Miss Curwen, Scottish Women's Hospitals, 66, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18th, at 2.15 p.m.—Tiffin Girls' School, Kingston—Speaker: Miss May Curwen.

N.U.W.S.S.

JANUARY 7.

Hampstead—Mothers' Union Meeting, St. Paul's Schools, Winchester Road, Fellows Road—Speaker: Mrs. Morgans; Subject: "The Use of the Vote." 3 p.m.

JANUARY 9.

Bristol—Matinée at the Bristol Hippodrome, in aid of the S.W. Hospitals and Serbian Red Cross—Lecture, with slides, by the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield, and entertainment by several artists. 2.45 p.m.

WOMEN'S SERVICE.

JUMBLE, WHITE ELEPHANT AND PRODUCE SALES.

The Sales Committee of the London Society for Women's Suffrage wish to express their heartfelt thanks to the members and kind friends who, by their generous contributions, filled the two large rooms at the Central Hall with such a splendid variety of saleable and useful articles. They find it impossible to thank all the kind donors individually, and take this opportunity of expressing their warm appreciation of the help thus given to the Women's Service Bureau in spite of the many other claims of the Christmas season. They are also most grateful to the friends who so liberally gave their time and services, collecting, sorting, and arranging the goods, stewarding, providing and serving most attractive war-time teas, and selling on both days of the Sale, to whom they feel much of its success is due. The accounts are not yet closed as surplus goods have been sent to a sale kindly arranged in South London this week, but the Committee are glad to state that, in spite of the fog on the second day, the sales at the Central Hall resulted in very satisfactory takings, and a timely and substantial addition to the funds of the Women's Service Bureau.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

Radcliffe and Whitefield Society.

On December 10th, 1917, the Annual Meeting was held in the Co-operative Assembly Room, Radcliffe, Mr. F. Stanton Barnes, of Heaton Park, presiding.

The Secretary read her report of the last year's work, and stated that the society had devoted its energies to the upkeep of the Radcliffe and Whitefield Bed in Manchester Unit, Corsica. A successful flag day realised £42 6s. 0½d., and, along with a whist drive and donation, over £50 had been sent for the "Bed." Letters had been sent to their Member, Mr. T. C. Taylor, Sir G. Cave, K.C., the Prime Minister, and others, *re* Clause IV. and the amendment of Mr. C. Roberts, M.P., in the Representation of the People Bill. A deputation consisting of Miss A. M. Allen, Miss M. Lofthouse, and Mrs. Thoday interviewed Mr. T. C. Taylor in the House of Commons in February. A letter of good wishes from the President of the society, the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, had been received by the Secretary.

The Treasurer's statement was read and the balance sheet adopted.

Mrs. Thoday, Hon. Secretary of Manchester Federation, N.U.W.S.S., gave a most interesting and inspiring address on the "Suffrage Movement, its present and its future." As Mrs. Thoday outlined the work of the Manchester Federation we realised the go-ahead, untiring, progressive man-power in the machinery of the Federation, which will exert itself still more strongly for the removal of the sex barrier, for improvement in housing and children's welfare, &c., for equality of voting rights, when the vote is won. Mrs. Thoday advocated Women's Citizenship Associations being formed to educate the new woman voter, also study circles on social, domestic, and political subjects. She wished for fuller liberties and opportunities for women on their own lines.

Mrs. Thoday said that the National Union would continue to work for the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. With so much work before them, they should be able to combine on common schemes of action and at the same time educate themselves to make an intelligent use of the vote, and so initiate and influence legislation directly concerned with women's questions.

The following resolution was passed:—

"That the Radcliffe and Whitefield Society (N.U.W.S.S.) should resolve itself into societies for women's full citizenship, to work for freedom of opportunity for women to make their full contribution to the affairs of the community and to study local, national, and international questions and initiate legislation from the point of view of women's interests when necessary."

Coming Events.

Part-time courses of training for voluntary social workers have been arranged at Bedford College, as well as those at the London School of Economics, announced in our last issue (page 474).

A composition fee of £2 2s. a term includes the tutorial class and lectures, either at Bedford College or the London School of Economics, arrangements being made for practical work.

THE BEST CORSET BODICE for WOMEN WORKERS

NURSES, MUNITION MAKERS, GARDENERS, Etc.

Adequate support WITHOUT bones.

Made in two qualities to customers' own measurements.

Corset Netting - 9/6
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Out size 3/0 extra.

Send Bust, Waist, Hips, and D to E.

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DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE.

RED WHITE & BLUE

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

In making, use LESS QUANTITY, it being so much stronger than ORDINARY COFFEE.

ALL BRITISH.

VALKASA

THE TONIC NERVE FOOD.

An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN FAG, DEPRESSION, LASSITUDE.

1s., 3s., and 5s. 6d. of all Chemists.

James Woolley, Sons & Co., Ltd. MANCHESTER

Real HARRIS, LEWIS, and SHETLAND HOMESPUNS.

Direct from the makers.

Special light weights for Ladies' wear—all shades. *Pattern on Price on Application.*

State shade desired and whether for Gent's or Ladies' wear.

Thick, Warm Hand spun and Hand-Knitted Socks for Tommy, 3/- pair. Carriage paid.

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Whole Page -	10	0	0	Whole Page -	9	0	0
Half Page -	5	0	0	Half Page -	4	10	0
Quarter Page	2	10	0	Quarter Page	2	5	0
Per Inch (wide col.)	10	0		One-Eighth p.	1	2	6
Narrow column:—				Per Inch (wide col.)	9	0	
Per Column	3	7	6	,, (narrow col.)	6	0	
,, Inch -		6	6				

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40	3	0	8	6	16	0

All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

EDUCATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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Principal: Miss M. J. TUKE, M.A.
FOR RESIDENT and DAY STUDENTS.
DEGREE COURSES IN ARTS AND SCIENCE.
SECONDARY TRAINING DEPARTMENT.
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For particulars of Scholarships and Bursaries, and for the College Calender, apply to THE PRINCIPAL.

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Home School on Progressive Thought lines. Large garden, cricket field, sea bathing; all exams. Special care given to backward and delicate girls.—Principal: Miss Richardson, B.A.

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PRESTATYN, NORTH WALES.—SEASIDE HOME SCHOOL for GIRLS and LITTLE BOYS. Good train service London and North-Western Main Line. Sea and mountain air, especially recommended by doctors for delicate children. Prospectus and good references on application. Boarders can be received for the new term at moderate fees.

Headmistress—Miss E. M. HICKSON, Pendre, Prestatyn, North Wales.

Miss B. Hickson could see relatives and give full information at 47, Victoria-street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1, from 10-4.30.

OPEN-AIR KINDERGARTEN HOME.—For few delicate children. Montessori methods, physical culture; trained nurse and governess. Fees from 70 guineas. Ages, 4—10 years. Free from air-raids. Good milk, butter, and eggs.—Principal, Effingham Lodge, Copthorne, Surrey.

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Training is given in Sewing, Cooking, Mothercraft, Baby Weighing, Visiting, etc., etc.
The Two Doctors give Weekly Lectures each, and the Superintendent gives Practical Demonstrations.
Apply to Mrs. Alys Russell, Hon. Sec.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

I enclose Donation of £ : s. d.

Name _____
(Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other Title.)

Address _____

All Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria," and made payable to: The Hon. Treasurer, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

POSITIONS VACANT.

GOOD GENERAL (£22-£24); small house, two ladies, very little cooking, no washing, help given; good outings; must have good references.—Mrs. Edwards, 19, Holland-rd., Kensington, W. 14.

WANTED, immediately, capable, active, middle-aged woman to help lady with all domestic work; knowledge plain cooking; comfortable place, good salary. Good references required.—Enquire Mrs. Butler, Weir House, Marlow.

WORKING-HOUSEKEEPER or lady required immediately; plain cooking and entire work of convenient, modern house; no range; country, 20 miles London. Experienced, strong, fond of children; boy for coal and boots; comfortable home. £24-£28.—Miss Moir, Blue Lane House, Limpsfield.

THE MANCHESTER LIBERAL FEDERATION, 45, Fountain-st., require the services of an educated, experienced woman as Organiser to the Federation. She will be required to devote her whole time to the work. State qualifications and experience.—Address Acting Hon. Secretary.

WANTED.—LADIES AS REPRESENTATIVES to a well-known old-established Insurance Company. An entirely new opening for women workers; whole or part time. Excellent prospects.—For particulars write Miss Rochford, c/o COMMON CAUSE Office, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

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"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for this book-let to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 5, Kingsway. 'Phone, Central 8049.

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GOLD, SILVER, AND BRASS can be cleaned in half the ordinary time by the Ayah Polishing Cloth. This cloth is used by jewellers in restoring lustre to the finest jewellery. No soiling of hands. 1s. 3d., post free, from The Pioneer Manufacturing Co., 23, Paternoster-sq., London, E.C.

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FRENCH taught as in France, by lady with many years' experience in Paris. Classes arranged to suit students.—Write for full particulars to Mme. Bolton, c/o COMMON CAUSE Office.

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